a threshold vertical coordinate height on said keyboard, said difference between said first and second vertical coordinates is not modified in calculating said distance.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

identifying a key associated with a letter in the spelling of the compared word and that is no more than a maximum threshold distance from a determined point along a segment of said input path that lies between two successive determined points of inflection along said input path;

matching said key with said determined point along said segment of said input path; and

including the distance from said matched key to said matched determined point in said function of said distances in calculating said numerical score of said word.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the distance from said matched key to said matched determined point is weighted according to one or more characteristics determined for said matched determined point before being included in said function of said distances.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein each point of inflection is of one of two or more types of points of inflection, and wherein recording the input path data as a sequence of locations further comprises:

recording each location as a point on a two-dimensional coordinate plane;

detecting when the sum of the absolute values of the rates of change of the rates of change of the two-dimensional coordinates in the recorded sequence of locations exceeds a determined threshold;

determining a path location point where said rate of change of the rate of change reaches a local maximum; and

identifying a point of inflection of said first type at or near said determined path location point.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising not identifying said point of inflection of said first type when said determined path location point is located no more than a determined threshold distance from the upper boundary of said displayed keyboard.

11. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

detecting when said determined path location point is located more than a determined threshold distance below the lower boundary of the lowest row of keys in said displayed keyboard that includes one or more alphabetic keys;

determining the preceding input path location point where the input path crosses below the lower boundary of the lowest row of keys in said displayed keyboard that includes one or more alphabetic keys; and

identifying said point of inflection of said first type at or near said determined preceding input path location point.

12. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

identifying a point of inflection of a second type of said two or more types of points of inflection when at least two points of inflection of said first type are identified within a determined threshold distance of each other,

and when the location determined as the weighted average of the locations of said identified at least two points of inflection of said first type is within a threshold distance of a repeated key, wherein said repeated key is a key that is associated with a letter of said candidate word that is repeated two or more times in succession in the spelling of said candidate word;

identifying said point of inflection of said second type as comprising said at least two points of inflection of said first type; and

matching each said repeated key with said identified point of inflection of said second type;

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the location associated with said inflection point of said second type is determined as the weighted average of the locations of said identified at least two points of inflection of said first type comprising said point of inflection of said second type.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein when one of said at least two points of inflection of said first type comprises the location corresponding to said initial path location of said input path, a determined penalty amount is included in determining said first numerical score of said candidate word.

15. The method of claim 12, wherein when one of said at least two points of inflection of said first type comprises the location corresponding to said final path location of said input path, a determined penalty amount is included in determining said first numerical score of said candidate word.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein when said point of inflection of said second type comprises exactly two of said points of inflection of said first type, a determined penalty amount is included in determining said first numerical score of said candidate word.

17. The method of claim 12, wherein when one or more of said points of inflection of said second type are identified in an input path in which are identified no more than a determined threshold number of said points of inflection of said first type, a determined penalty amount is included in determining said first numerical score of said candidate word.

18. The method of claim 8, wherein the magnitude of the distance from a first key associated with a letter in a possible candidate word to a first matched point in the input path with which said first key is matched is adjusted according to a parameter determined with respect to

a preceding key associated with the letter in the candidate word immediately preceding said letter and a preceding matched point in the input path with which said preceding key is matched, and with respect to

a following key associated with the letter in the candidate word immediately following said letter and a following matched point in the input path with which said following key is matched.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said parameter is determined as a function of the magnitude of the difference between:

the change in slope between a vector connecting said preceding key to said first key to a vector connecting said first key to said following key, and